

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/039,138

Applicant(s)

BLOOMFIELD ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2833

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1, 2, 5- 7, 9-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Klein et al.

With regard to claim 1, Klein et al (US 6,186,800) disclose a method for grounding a circuit board comprising the steps of:

attaching an stud (10a) to a chassis (Abstract, lines 1-3);

attaching a ground clip (9a);

positioning stud through a mounting hole (21); and

engaging the clip with the mounting stud.

With regard to claim 2, Klein et al disclose that the clip attached to an upper surface of the circuit board.

With regard to claims 5 and 6, Klein et al disclose the mounting stud (10) extending through the mounting hole (21) (col. 9, lines 63-67) and receiving the mounting stud in a biased (slanted) clip opening.

With regard to claim 7, Klein et al (US 6,186,800) disclose a ground clip apparatus (9a) comprising:

an generally circular (portion surrounding the cylindrical stud) upper body portion (12a) having a side opening extending from the upper body portion, a plurality of retentive leads (14a) adapted for insertion through holes in a circuit board (2a).

With regard to claims 9, 10, 12, 16, and 17, Klein et al disclose biasing (16) the leads having teats (15a), said leads are substantially opposite to side opening (11a).

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claims 11 and 19, Klein et al disclose flared ends (13) of the body portion.

With regard to claims 13 and 15, Klein et al inherently disclose a plurality of mounting studs, clips, and holes in the circuit board and disclose a nose (19a) of the mounting stud contacting the upper body of the grounding clip.

With regard to claim 14, Klein et al disclose positioning the grounding clip with the side opening faces the mounting hole in the circuit board.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al.

With regard to claim 3, Klein et al disclose all of the limitations except for soldering the ground clip to the circuit board.

To solder the ground clip to the circuit board, would have been an obvious matter of design absent any criticality, since the soldering, as a method of attaching of components to the circuit board is well known in the art.

With regard to claim 4, Klein et al disclose the ground clip leads extending through lead holes in the circuit board.

2. Claim 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al in view of Sampson.

Klein et al disclose all of the limitations except for a plurality of stanchions

Sampson (US 5,108,312) discloses a plurality of stanchions (42)

Art Unit: 2833

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Klein et al grounding clip with the plurality of stanchions, as taught by Sampson, for better engagement of the clip and the circuit board.

3. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al in view of Delpech et al.

Klein et al disclose all of the limitations except for outwardly flexing the ends of the upper body to receive the upper nose of the mounting stud.

Delpech et al (US 4,875,140) disclose the flexing ends (10) of the clip.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Klein et al grounding clip with the flexing ends as taught by Delpech et al, to utilize the elastic engagement of the clip and the mounting stud.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

Alexander Gilman



July 23, 2002